

## REPLY

To: Examiner of the Patent Office

1. Identification of the International Application: PCT/JP03/13960

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5. Content of Reply:

Claim 1 is amended as follows.

Claim 1(amended) A method for the manufacturing of a masking member comprising; the preparation of a green masking member by stretch molding, the size of said green masking member being set considering the margin of contraction, and then heating and softening said green masking member, causing said masking member to contract to the size and shape suitable for the part to be masked.

Literature 1(EP 1095708 A1) discloses a masking member made of a polymer alloy of engineering plastic and a thermoplastic resin excepting said engineering plastic, Literature 2(WO 2002/030580 A1) discloses a masking member made of a polymer alloy of engineering plastic, polyamide and/or polystyrene, and a styrene group elastomer, and Literature 3(JP10-192754 A) discloses a separable masking member made of a thermoplastic resin

sheet or a foamed thermoplastic resin sheet. However, Literatures 1 to 3 do not disclose the preparation of a green masking member, its size being set considering margin of contraction, and then heating and softening said green masking member, contracting it to the suitable size for the part to be masked.

Literature 4(JP10-192754 A) discloses the preparation of the first molded article by the heat molding of a thermoplastic sheet, and the heat treatment of said first molded article, to manufacture the second molded article, said heat-treatment being carried with a male die inserted into said first molded article (claim 5, Example 1). Accordingly, we consider that Literature 4 does not disclose a method for the present invention, wherein a green masking member, whose size is set taking the margin of contraction into consideration, is prepared, with said green masking member being heated and softened so that its size corresponds to that of the specific part to be masked.

As described above, the present invention is not disclosed in any of Literatures 1 to 4, so that the present invention has an inventive step.

## 6. List of Attached Document

### (1) Amendment